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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/767,062	01/30/2004	Toshiaki Aono	Q79570	5486
23373	7590	12/27/2005		
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC 2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W. SUITE 800 WASHINGTON, DC 20037			EXAMINER MARTIN, LAURA E	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2853	

DATE MAILED: 12/27/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/767,062

Applicant(s)

AONO ET AL.

Examiner

Laura E. Martin

Art Unit

2853

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1/30/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

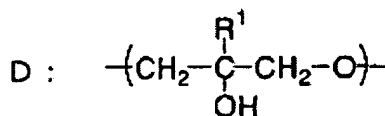
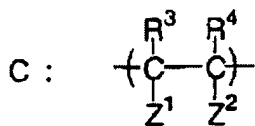
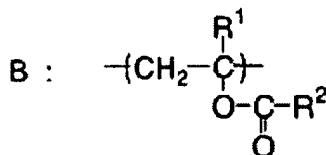
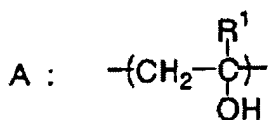
**DETAILED ACTION*****Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-11, 13-15, 17, 18, 22, and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kubodera (JP 10095942) in view of Kimura et al. (US 6521031).

Kubodera teaches an inkjet recording ink and image forming method [0001], comprising a pigment and a compound represented by the following general formula (I):  $R-X-(Y)_n-H$ , wherein the general formula (I), R represents a hydrophobic group [0005], or a group derived from a hydrophobic polymer; n is an integer from 10 to 3500 [0005]; and structural units of repeated Y comprise at least one structural unit represented by A, C, or D [0005], and further comprise 0-40% by mole of structural units represented by B [0045]:



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wherein in structural units A through D,  $R^1$  represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms;  $R^2$  represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms;  $R^3$  represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group;  $R^4$  represents a hydrogen atom,  $-CH_3$ ,  $-CH_2COOH$ , or an ammonium salt thereof or an alkali metal salt thereof or  $-CN$ ;  $Z^1(X)$  represents a hydrogen atom,  $-COOH$ , or an ammonium salt thereof or alkali metal salt thereof, or  $-CONH_2$ ; and  $Z^2(Y)$  represents  $-COOH$  or an ammonium salt thereof or alkali metal salt thereof,  $SO_3H$  or an ammonium salt thereof or alkali metal salt thereof,  $-OSO_3H$  or an ammonium salt thereof or alkali metal salt thereof,  $-CH_2SO_3H$  or an ammonium salt thereof or alkali metal salt thereof,  $-CONHC(CH_3)_2CH_2SO_3H$  or an ammonium salt thereof or alkali metal salt thereof, or  $-CONHCH_2CH_2CH_2N^+(CH_3)_3Cl^-$  [0007]. Kubodera also teaches the hydrophobic group represented by R in general formula (I) is an aliphatic group or an aromatic group, alicyclic group, is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, phenyl, and naphthyl groups [0030]. Kubodera also teaches the hydrophobic group represented by R in general formula (I) is an alkyl group having 3 to 70 carbon atoms [0031] wherein polymerization degree of R in the general formula (I) is from 2 to 500 [0032]; R is a group derived from at least one hydrophobic polymer selected from the group consisting of polystyrene, polymethacrylic acid ester, polyacrylic acid ester, polyvinyl chloride, and derivatives thereof [0032]. Kubodera also teaches the structural unit A is a structural unit derived from vinyl alcohol,  $\alpha$ -methylvinyl alcohol or  $\alpha$ -propylvinyl alcohol [0043]; the structural unit B is a structural unit derived from vinyl acetate, vinyl formate, vinyl propionate, or an  $\alpha$ -substitution product thereof [0043]; the

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structural unit C is a structural unit derived from acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, itaconic acid, maleic acid, an ammonium salt thereof or a metal salt thereof [0043]. Kubodera also teaches a mass ratio of R to  $(Y)_n$  in general formula (I) is from 0.01 to 2, the mass ratio being calculated using atomic weights of respective atoms in R to  $(Y)_n$  [0048];  $(Y)_n$  comprises, as structural units thereof, ethylene, propylene, isobutene, acrylonitrile, acrylamide, methacrylamide, N-vinylpyrrolidone, vinyl chloride, or vinyl fluoride [0046]. Kubodera also teaches the ink further comprising water [0073], a dispersing agent [0065], a drying inhibitor (moisturizer) [0056].

Kubodera does not teach X representing a bivalent linking group having a hetero bond or the hetero bond in general formula (I) selected from the group consisting of an ether bond, an ester bond, a thioether bond, a thioester bond, a sulfonyl bond, an amide bond, an imide bond, a sulfonamide bond, a urethane bond, a urea bond, and a thiourea bond.

Kimura et al. teaches X representing a bivalent linking group having a hetero bond or the hetero bond in general formula (I) selected from the group consisting of an ether bond, an ester bond, a thioether bond, a thioester bond, a sulfonyl bond, an amide bond, an imide bond, a sulfonamide bond, a urethane bond, a urea bond, and a thiourea bond (C6, L15-26).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the invention of Kubodera with the disclosure of Kimura et al. in order to provide for a stable ink composition.

Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kubodera (JP 10095942) and Kimura et al. (US 6521031), in further view of Leppard et al. (US 6048660).

Kubodera and Kimura et al. teach ink of claim 1; however, both references fail to disclose a structural unit D selected from the group consisting of  $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}(\text{OH})\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$ ,  $-\text{CH}_2\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)(\text{OH})\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$ , and  $-\text{CH}_2\text{C}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)(\text{OH})\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$ .

Leppard et al. teaches a structural unit D selected from the group consisting of  $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}(\text{OH})\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$ ,  $-\text{CH}_2\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)(\text{OH})\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$ , and  $-\text{CH}_2\text{C}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)(\text{OH})\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$  (C2, L54).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the invention of claim 1 with the disclosure of Leppard et al. in order to provide for a stable ink composition.

Claims 16 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kubodera (JP 10095942) and Kimura et al. (US 6521031), in further view of Aono et al. (JP 07-219113).

Kubodera and Kimura et al. teach the ink of claim 1. Kubodera also teaches a surface tension adjuster [0060]. However, neither teaches recording ink further comprising a water-soluble organic solvent or a high-boiling water-soluble solvent.

Aono et al. teaches recording ink further comprising a water-soluble organic solvent [0009] and a high-boiling water-soluble solvent [0088].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the inventions of Kubodera and Kimura et al. with the disclosure of Aono et al. in order to make a more stable ink composition.

Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kubodera (JP 10095942) and Kimura et al. (US 6521031), in further view of Yamanouchi et al. (US 20020143079).

Kubodera and Kimura et al. teach the ink fo claim 1; however, neither reference discloses a penetration promoter.

Yamanouchi et al. teaches an ink comprising a penetration promoter [0501].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the inventions of Kubodera and Kimura et al. with the disclosure of Yamanouchi et al. in order to prevent bleeding.

Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kubodera (JP 10095942) and Kimura et al. (US 6521031), in further view of Nishita (US 20020060727).

Kubodera and Kimura et al. teach the ink of claim 1; however, both references fail to disclose a surface tension of 20 to 60 mN/m.

Nishita teaches a surface tension of 20 to 60 mN/m [0251].

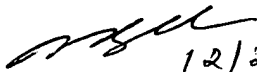
It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the inventions of Kubodera and Kimura et al. with the disclosure of Nishita in order to provide a stronger ink composition.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Laura E. Martin whose telephone number is (571) 272-2160. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 7:00 - 3:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen D. Meier can be reached on (571) 272-2149. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Laura E. Martin

  
12/22/05  
**MANISH S. SHAH**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**